

BOOK REVIEW

STEPHEN ANDERTON. 2001. **Urban Sanctuaries: Peaceful Havens for the City Gardener.** (ISBN 0-88192-502-0, hbk.). Timber Press, Inc., 133 S.W. Second Avenue, Suite 450, Portland, OR 97204-3527, U.S.A. (Orders: www.timberpress.com, 800-327-5680, 503-227-2878, 503-227-3070 fax). \$29.95, 144 pp, 148 color photos, 4 color plans, 4 b/w plans, 8 1/2" × 11".

Creating a "sanctuary" is a popular topic, turning up frequently in the recent crop of gardening literature. British garden writer Stephen Anderton shows how you can create a peaceful oasis in a hectic environment. The emphasis in *Urban Sanctuaries* is on the traditional backyard, but Anderton's key concepts will apply to smaller and more exotic areas as well. Anderton's approach is a down-to-earth yet inspiring presentation of alternatives ranging from cutting-edge designs of cool contemporary plots to family-oriented backyards and container gardens that make maximum use of minimum space.

Anderton's concepts remain constant throughout his narrative. In *Part One: The Body of the Garden* he addresses the fundamental basics of garden design. What type, full or partial, and time of sun does the plot receive? What type of soil does your garden have? What plants or design elements are already there, and will you include them or not? What is your preferred planting style: traditional, tropical, minimalist? Do you want to incorporate a water feature? The scale of plantings as well as water and soil supplies must be considered carefully. To make it seem larger, the pace of movement through the area should be slowed and there must be a place to sit, which seems obvious, but during the design stage the fact that eventually one will want to spend leisure time in one's garden is often overlooked. The broad scope of his vision encompasses all categories of stylistic considerations, with the aim of directing the reader to a design path best suited to one's fundamental predilections. By looking at innovative designs for varied styles of urban gardens Stephen Anderton shows how they can be adapted to create outdoor spaces that are not only imaginative but are also imbued with a mood of peace and serenity.

Part Two: The Spirit of the Garden follows Anderton's musing on different garden themes and ideas of how to make those themes a reality. He uses case studies to provide design solutions complete with diagrams for gardens with magic with mystery, the natural approach, devoted to water, minimalist style, and more. A selected directory, complete with US hardiness zones, of 72 plants that meet his criteria of those that are "tough, easy to grow, and ... have a long season". Plants selected range from trees to perennials.

A prominent personality in the world of English gardening, Stephen Anderton writes a Saturday column for *The Times* (London) and regularly contributes to *Horticulture*, *The Garden*, and *Gardens Illustrated*. This unique resource for the city dweller should appeal to gardeners of all levels.—Gary Jennings, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, TX 76102-4060, U.S.A.